

REMARKS

As of the non-final *Office Action* of 3 May 2006, Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 13-24 are pending in the Application. In the *Office Action*, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 13-17, and 19-21, and the Examiner also objects to Claims 7, 18, and 22-24. Applicant thanks the Examiner with appreciation for the careful consideration and examination given to the Application. The Examiner's indication that Claims 7, 18, and 22-24 contain allowable subject matter is also appreciated by Applicant.

Applicant reserves the right to present new or additional claims in this Application that have similar or broader scope as originally filed. Applicant also reserves the right to present additional claims in a later-filed continuation application that have similar or broader scope as originally filed.

Applicant files this *Response* to move this case to allowance. No new matter is believed introduced by this submission. Applicant respectfully submits that the present Application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

I. Specification Amendments

Applicant presents certain amendments to the *Specification* as requested by the Examiner. More specifically, Applicant updates the "Cross-Reference To Related Applications" section of the *Specification* to include current status of related applications. Applicants believe these updates reflect current status of these applications and address the Examiner's concern.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 1-4, 6, 13, and 22 for certain minor informalities. In response, Applicant amends these claims as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested.

III. Double Patenting Rejection

In the *Office Action*, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 13-17, and 19-21 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 7 and 12 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/925,269 (now USPN 7,103,511). In response, Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

By submitting the terminal disclaimer, Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's rejection is properly based. Applicant submits the terminal disclaimers solely to advance

prosecution of the application. Applicant also respectfully asserts that the filing of the terminal disclaimer does not act as an admission, acquiescence, or estoppel on the merits of obviousness-type double patenting rejection asserted by the Examiner.

IV. Fees & Petition For Extension of Time Pursuant To 37 C.F.R. § 1.136

Applicant believes no claims fees are due, as the total number of claims, and independent claims, is equal to or less than the number of claims paid for upon filing this Application.

Applicant petitions for a three-month extension of time to respond to the *Office Action* pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. Applicant also submits the required three-month extension fee via EFS-Web.

No additional fees are believed due. Authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 20-1507, however, is given should additional fees be due.

V. Conclusion

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the *Office Action* mailed 3 May 2006. Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests passing of this case in due course of patent office business. If the Examiner believes there are other issues that can be resolved by a telephone interview, or there are any informalities remaining in the application which may be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to Hunter Yancey at (404) 885-3696 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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